

Opportunity to Comment on the Big Springs Mine Project

The Forest Service, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Mountain City Ranger District is preparing an Environmental Assessment for the Big Springs Mine Project. Anova Metals USA LLC proposes to conduct open pit and underground mining on National Forest System lands in the Independence Mountains in portions of Sections 1 and 2, T42N, R53E, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian. Open pit mining would occur in an existing partially disturbed pit (601 Pit) and underground mining below the 601 Pit and adjacent 701 Pit within the former Big Springs Mine site. Total surface disturbance is estimated at 41 acres of a 617 acre project area. Mined ore would be trucked off site for processing at a third party facility. Anticipated operational mine life is two years, followed by approximately three years of reclamation, site closure activities, and post-closure monitoring.

The proposed action description and other information are available for review at the Mountain City Ranger District Office. Additional information regarding this action can be obtained from: Douglas Powell, Mountain City Ranger District, 2035 Last Chance Road, Elko, Nevada 89801; phone (775) 778-6129; email johnpowells.fed.us.

How to Comment and Timeframe

This Project is not authorized under the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) and is subject to the Pre-decisional Administrative Review Process under 36 CFR §218 Subparts (A) and (B). Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to object must meet the Information requirements of 36 CFR 218 Subparts (A) and (B).

It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period. Only those who submit timely and specific written comments regarding the proposed project during a public comment period established by the responsible official are eligible to file an objection under §218.

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted for 30 calendar days following the publication of this notice in the Elko Daily Free Press. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this analysis. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or time frame information provided by any other source. The regulations prohibit extending the length of the comment period.

Written comments must be submitted to: Kathryn W. Fuell, Mountain City District Ranger, 2035 Last Chance Road, Elko, Nevada 89801, fax (775) 778-6167. The office business hours for those submitting hand delivered comments are: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc) to this email address: comments-intermin-humboldt-toiyabe-mtncity@fs.fed.us. In cases where no identifiable name is attached to a comment, a verification of identity will be required for objection eligibility. If using an electronic message, a scanned signature is one way to provide verification.

For objection eligibility each individual or representative from each entity submitting timely and specific written comments regarding the proposed project must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request.

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